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New assassination theory

Author questions the identity of Lee Harvey Oswald

By WENDY GOLDHIRSH
Times correspondent

MANCHESTER — R.B. Cutler of Union Street has spent the last 20 years trying to prove that the real killers of President John F. Kennedy have not yet been identified.

In his recent book, "Alias Oswald," Cutler contends that the man accused of assassinating the president was not Lee Harvey Oswald but Alek James Hidell, a CIA agent who had served in Russia under Oswald's name.

Cutler is a professional "assassinologist" and publishes "The Grassy Knoll Gazette," a newsletter on assassinations. He has strong opinions about who killed Robert Kennedy ("It was not Sirhan," he said,) and Martin Luther King. He also has his own theories about the assassination attempts on Alabama Gov. George Wallace and President Reagan, and the downing of a Korean airliner in 1983.

In "Alias Oswald," Cutler says Hidell, when he returned from Russia in 1962, still under the alias of Lee Harvey Oswald, was assigned the task of investigating rumors of a presidential assassination. He succeeded in penetrating the group of conspirators, Cutler claims, and then, because of his experience in Russia, was targeted by the conspirators as a likely patsy for the assassination.

Cutler claims that the conspirators were supported by oil money and West Coast money and were made up of members of the John Birch Society. "It was a paramilitary operation," Cutler said.

Cutler, who has been an architect for most of his working life, said he first became interested in Kennedy's assassination when he laid out, graphically, the single-bullet theory promoted by the Warren Commission Report.

Wendy Goldhirsh photo

R.B. Cutler, author of a new book "Alias Oswald," contends that the man accused of assassinating the president was not Lee Harvey Oswald but Alek James Hidell, a CIA agent.

"I matched the wound and the scars in the men with the shots. I measured Dealey Plaza, where the president and the governor were shot. The idea that a single bullet could have penetrated the president's neck and then wounded the governor in two different places, is ludicrous," Cutler said.

Cutler believes Kennedy was shot by two different people, one using a flechette or small dart-shaped projectile that is clustered in an explosive warhead and fired from a hand-held gun, and by one using a standard gun. He said the two members of the conspiracy were trained by the CIA as part of the Cuban invasion effort. It is the CIA connection to the gunmen, Cutler believes, that motivates a government cover-up of the assassination.

Cutler, who is accustomed to having his assassination theories rejected, said, "I'm interested in finding the truth. Someday, and it may not be in my lifetime, someone will be able to get through with the truth."

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